

20 March 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. WISNER

SUBJECT : Conversation with Mr. Henry Loomis, PSB, Concerning
the Coordination of Paramilitary Research

1. On 18 March I had a conversation with Mr. Henry Loomis of PSB in which he outlined to me the conclusion which he had reached as a result of his study of research activities in the social science field with particular emphasis on those research activities which had a direct bearing upon paramilitary matters.

2. Mr. Loomis also outlined for me the various activities in the field of research in paramilitary matters which had been undertaken by the Department of the Army and Air Force. He stated that it was his conviction that someone should undertake to coordinate this type of research or otherwise there would be excessive duplication in some areas and wide gaps in other areas. He also felt that this research would concern itself with matters of direct concern to CIA and that in fact suitable research in some areas could not be done unless CIA furnished information which he understood we would not be willing to furnish.

3. Mr. Loomis ended by suggesting that CIA was the proper agency to coordinate on research in the paramilitary field. I questioned him further concerning the types of research which should be undertaken and then pointed out to him that a great deal of this research was of no direct concern to CIA and that in my opinion PSB should undertake to coordinate this type of research for the Government.

4. Mr. Loomis told me that the Air Force had been attempting to coordinate their research in the paramilitary field with the Department of the Army and had been rebuffed by the Army with the statement that this type of research was primarily a responsibility of the Army and that they would take care of it. The Air Force was not satisfied with this answer and approached General Doolittle, special advisor on research to General Vandenberg, and suggested to him that he approach General Walter B. Smith with the proposal that CIA undertake coordination of all research in this field. Before General Doolittle could do this, the series of air crashes occurred in New Jersey and General Doolittle was called from his consultant job with the Air Force and made the chief of an air safety board by the President.

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He is just returned to his job with the Air Force and his approach to General Smith may be made at any time now. I believe General Smith should be alerted to this possibility and that you should ask him to turn the matter over to you.

5. I detected in Mr. Loomis' remarks a feeling that while he recognized that coordination of research in the paramilitary field should be directed and coordinated for the Government by some Agency of the Government, he was fighting shy of the idea that PSB should be this mechanism. He was unable to explain to my satisfaction why it should not be, and I surmised that he was expressing a "party line" about which he was not too well briefed.

6. It is my recommendation that CIA support the thesis that direction and coordination of research in the paramilitary field is required but that we resist the assignment of this responsibility to CIA and press for its assignment to PSB. If PSB is designated as the coordinator, CIA and the military could each undertake those types of research which they are best equipped to do.

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[Redacted]
Chief of Plans, O/DD [Redacted]

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